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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland  
SUBJECT Discovery of Smallpox in Gdynia and Preventative Measures Taken

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1. After the arrival of the M.S. BATORY in Gdynia at the beginning of March 1953, two members of her crew, a steward and laundress, died of smallpox (Oriental variety- "czarna ospa") brought on board by [ ] passenger. The fact that smallpox had been brought to Gdynia was officially kept secret, and the following measures were ordered:

- (a) All ships entering Polish ports to be stopped in the roadstead and the crews to be vaccinated. When the S.S. DABROWSKI entered Gdynia on 1 April 1953, members of the crew were vaccinated [ ]

- (b) The entire population of Gdynia, Gdansk (Danzig), and Sopot, was subjected to vaccination. The reasons for the vaccination order were published in the press. It was explained by the Ministry of Health as a concern on their part for the health of the inhabitants since immunity by vaccination tends to decrease after a few years and further since vaccinations were neglected during the war and occupation years; so that these were to be considered in the nature of booster shots.

- (c) Patients in the Epidemic Hospital (Szpital Epidemiczny) in Gdynia - Grabowek were evacuated to other hospitals outside the three port cities, among others, Wejherowo. The Gdynia-Grabowek Epidemic Hospital was made ready to accept smallpox cases.

- (d) A number of private houses, where cases of temporarily unidentified illness were established, were isolated. One of these houses is inhabited by a captain's family; he was forbidden to visit his wife, after his return from sea.

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Every person was issued a Vaccination Certificate (Swiadectwo Szczepienia), after undergoing vaccination. Persons domiciled in the three port cities wishing to travel inland were allowed to purchase railway, aeroplane, or bus tickets only on production of the Vaccination Certificate. This regulation was very strictly observed. It is alleged that this new regulation is in force throughout the voivodships of Gdansk and Szczecin (coastal zone).

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